



Herring Cove Junior High School Advisory Committee Meeting

February 26, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Via MS Teams

Present: Josh Chapman, Jim Curry, Christina Neary, Erica Reid, Amy Richardson, Lisa Scallion, Olive Taussig, Sherisse O'Leary

Regrets: Luci Ewing, Tara Sampson, Brent Keough, Ashley Nicholson, Ashley Cassibo,

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 27, 2025

- Approved without changes.

2. New Business

- **African Heritage Month Highlights:** February is African Heritage Month, so some activities have taken place, including African Dance and Drumming, Heritage highlights about notable African Nova Scotians and Canadians in the morning announcements and student work displayed around the school.
- **SAC Grant Money- Update: (requests attached):**
 - Stage Lighting: approved
 - Wireless Microphone: approved
 - African Dance & Drumming Presentations: approved
 - Grade 6 Math Instructional Materials: approved
 - Grade 8 ELA Materials: approved
 - Tech Ed replacement for 3D printer: approved \$750 (not in original proposal)
- **Spring-time Community Clean Up:** A community member contacted Mr. Curry about garbage that was being thrown on her lawn. After further investigation, it was determined that the trash can at the store (Now We're Convenient) was overfull. We will be looking into having volunteers in the community do a clean up once the snow melts a bit.
- **SSP Update:** We've been looking at our provincial assessment results, which are noticeably lower than expected when students come in in September. Students are assessed in October, which doesn't give us much time to work with the students. We have been using comparison data, tracking the students between their grade 6 and grade 8 assessments. We don't compare data from one year to another at a specific grade level, but rather compare the number of students experiencing success in grade 8 as compared to grade 6, obviously looking for growth and improvement. Mr. Curry will send some information prior to the next meeting to be reviewed.

3. Principal's Report:

Sports: Both our basketball teams have had excellent seasons. We were very fortunate to find volunteer community coaches this year. I would like to thank Peter Lumsten (boy's coach), Veronica Curry and Ben O'Neil (girl's coaches). It is becoming increasingly difficult to find volunteers to coach and we could not have offered these sports without these amazing people.

Breakfast program: We continue to see high demand for our grab and go options (fruit, granola bars, etc.). Also, every second week we offer toasted bagels at recess, this is extremely popular with the students, big thank you to Ms. Keefe and Ms. Scallion for organizing. Our breakfast program activities could not take place without the careful ordering and budgeting provided by Ms. Reid (thank you!!!)

Grade 7-8 Ski Trip (Martock): We had an awesome ski trip to Martock in January. We had 65 students register and all had a wonderful time. A big thank you to Mr. Keough for organizing this trip.

School Dance: Supposed to be held Feb 12. Unfortunately, we did not sell enough tickets, so we had to cancel. Our next dance is scheduled for May 8.

Grade 6 Late French Immersion Parent Info Session: On Feb 3rd, we had an information session about our Late French Immersion program for grade 6 parents who are interested. Ms. Deroche will also be speaking to our grade 6 classes to promote choosing Late Immersion next year.

Skilled Trades: Skills for Success presented for Gr 8's in January. This dynamic presentation is designed to promote the skilled trades as an option for our students. 40 of our grade 8s will be traveling to exhibition park to participate in a hands-on session promoting the trades on Feb 19.

Intensive French: Ms. Scallion had the chance in January to go to our feeder schools and speak to the grade 5 classes about enrolling in this program. She also held a Q & A session for prospective parents on Feb 3rd. By all reports the sessions went well and there was a lot of interest in the program.

CST. O'Brien (HPD): will be coming in to speak about Cyber safety and proper online behaviour. This is part of the school's efforts not only to try and keep our kids safe online, but also to help create good digital citizens.

African Dance: On Feb 17th we hosted *The Maritime Centre for African Dance*, performing EXCITING and INTERACTIVE FALL workshops & dance classes for the entire school. Students always have a tonne of fun and learn some new dance steps as well!

MSVU Band Trip: On Feb 18th Our entire band program went on their annual trip to MSVU campus to enjoy the sounds of the Stadacona Big Band.

Lunchtime Clubs: During lunchtime we have several clubs which are free for students to participate in. Some of the clubs include Leadership, Lego Club, Stitch Club, Cooking Club, Art Club and GSA, Baby Sitting Classes and more. We are hoping to have some more options available soon. Students are also invited to use our gym and library on certain days of the week, and extra help is available from many of the teachers.

Gym Equipment: using part of our Healthy Living grant, we were able to purchase volleyball equipment as well as for our grade 6 classes to use outdoors at recess and lunchtime. Later in our meeting, I will talk about some requests for the SAC to sponsor some classroom equipment.

Spirit Week: We had another successful Spirit Week on Feb 9-13th. Our student Leadership team plans several contests and fun events to help chase away the winter blues.

4. Student's Report:

- Nothing to report

5. Other Business:

- Lunch program is going well. We have student volunteers helping out to distribute the meals. Most are popular, but some are less popular.

Next Meeting: End of Meeting 6:34 p.m.: Next Meeting: April 23, 2026 6:00 p.m. via MS Teams

Funding Requests for SAC Meeting of Feb 26, 2026

First Request: Student Well Being Goal

I am writing to request funds to purchase some stage lighting for HCJH to improve our school Talent Show this year. We have been holding a talent show in one form or another for several years and improving the show every year. We don't currently possess any stage lights, which made our student performers difficult to see and film last year.

The lighting will be used for any stage related events at HCJH, and I intend to support students in running an annual talent show during the coming years.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Rebecca Wickwire

Requested items:

- Stage light 2-pack: \$139.99
- LED laser display light: \$50.39

Total: \$190.38

Second Request: Student Well Being Goal

TONOR Wireless Microphone, Metal Dual Professional UHF Cordless Dynamic Mic Handheld Microphone System 200ft (TW-820)

Total: \$159.99

Third Request: Student Well Being Goal

To help celebrate African Heritage Month, *Maritime Center for African Dance Inc* puts on an African dance/drumming workshop on Feb 17. Students are treated to an interactive display of drumming and arts/culture of Africa. Also, instructors teach traditional dance steps.

Total: \$1,133.88

Fourth Request: Math Programming Goal

We have recently had an elementary math coach that has worked with our grade 6 teachers on improving methods of teaching mathematics to students. While this has been a great success, it has been pointed out that we are missing some basic math instructional tools in our classrooms. These items did not move with our students when grade 6 was sent to HCJH. With that in mind, our grade 6 teachers have requested that the SAC help buy those supplies.

Total: \$1,293.98

Fifth Request: Literacy Programming Goal

January 6, 2026

Request for materials for Grade 8 English Language Arts classes (all 4 classes will use them):

Item description quantity:

Lyreco green highlighter 25, Lyreco pink highlighter 25, Lyreco yellow highlighter 25 Sharpie orange highlighter 25, Sharpie fine tip black 25, Lyreco black whiteboard marker 100, Hillroy scribbler 90

Total: \$99.37